

[15 December, 2006]

RAJYA SABHA

(c) the time-frame within which the above project would be completed and opened to traffic?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRIR. VELU): (a) to (c) The work of Naupada-Gunupur gauge conversion project, included in the Railway Budget in 1997-98, is being progressed as per the operational priority of the project and the availability of resources. Land has been acquired partially. Earthwork and bridgeworks have been taken up. The budget outlay for the project has been increased substantially from Rs. 5 crore during 2005-06 to Rs. 34 crore during 2006-07 to speed up the progress of work during the year. No target date of completion of the project has yet been fixed.

Rail line from Jammu to R.S. Pura

2701. SHRI T.S. BAJWA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to start the railway line from Jammu to R.S. Pura in near future;

(b) if so, the status of the proposal thereof; and

(c) the details of any survey conducted in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (c) Do not arise.

Ticketless travellers

†2702. SHRI AJAY MAROO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of train passengers caught travelling in trains without ticket in the country during the last three years and the fine recovered from them;

(b) the area where most of the passengers travel without tickets; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to solve this problem?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(SHRI R. VELU): (a) The number of passengers caught travelling in trains without ticket/irregular travel and fine recovered from them during the last three years are as under:

Year	Number of passengers caught (in lakhs)	Amount recovered (Rs. in crores)
2004-05	77.63	187.39
2005-06	51.97	190.91
2006-07	35.11	128.02

(Upto October, 2006)

(b) and (c) Vulnerable areas where ticketless travelling is rampant are identified by the railways from time to time and regular and surprise drives are conducted frequently to check ticketless/irregular travel in association with Police. Travelling public are educated through various media about the consequences of ticketless travel. In addition, some of the measures taken are as under:

- i) Special checks are conducted in association with Police and Railway Magistrates.
- ii) Ambush Checks, Fortress Checks, Cross Country Checks, Replacement Checks, etc., are conducted from time to time.
- iii) The minimum penalty for ticketless/irregular travel has been enhanced to Rs. 250/- from Rs. 50/- with effect from 01.07.2004 to discourage ticketless travel.

Computerised railway reservation counters in Manipur

2703. SHRI RISHANG KEISHING: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of computerised railway reservation counters in Manipur with name Of places;

(b) whether it is a fact that the computerised railway reservation counters